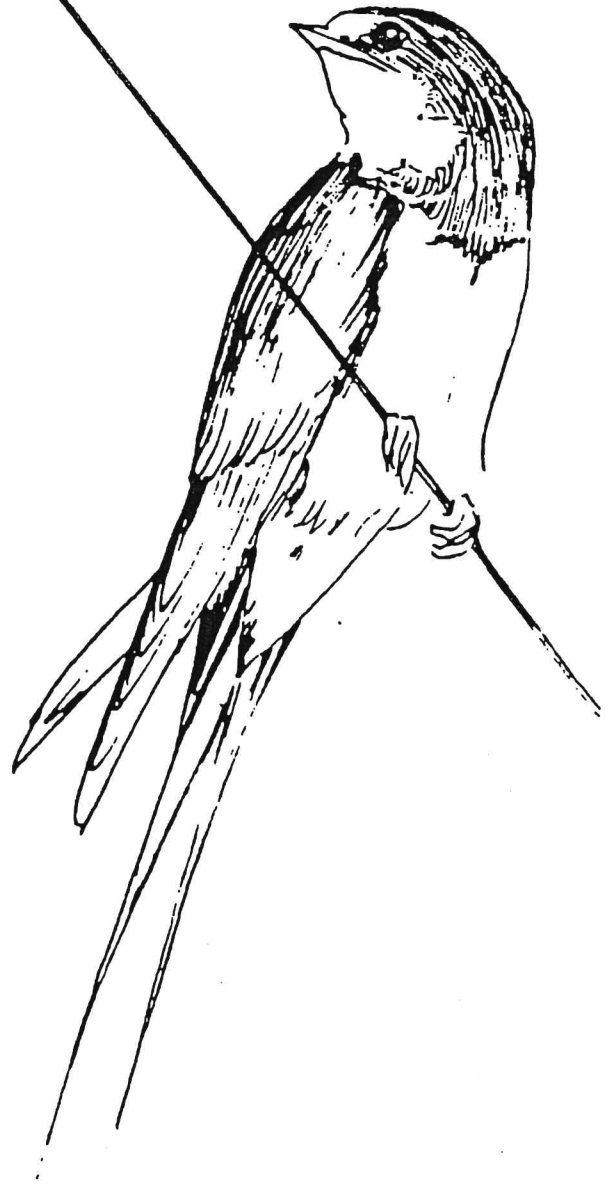


Name \_\_\_\_\_



# God - The Great Provider

**“****et birds fly  
above the  
earth in the  
open sky of heaven.”**

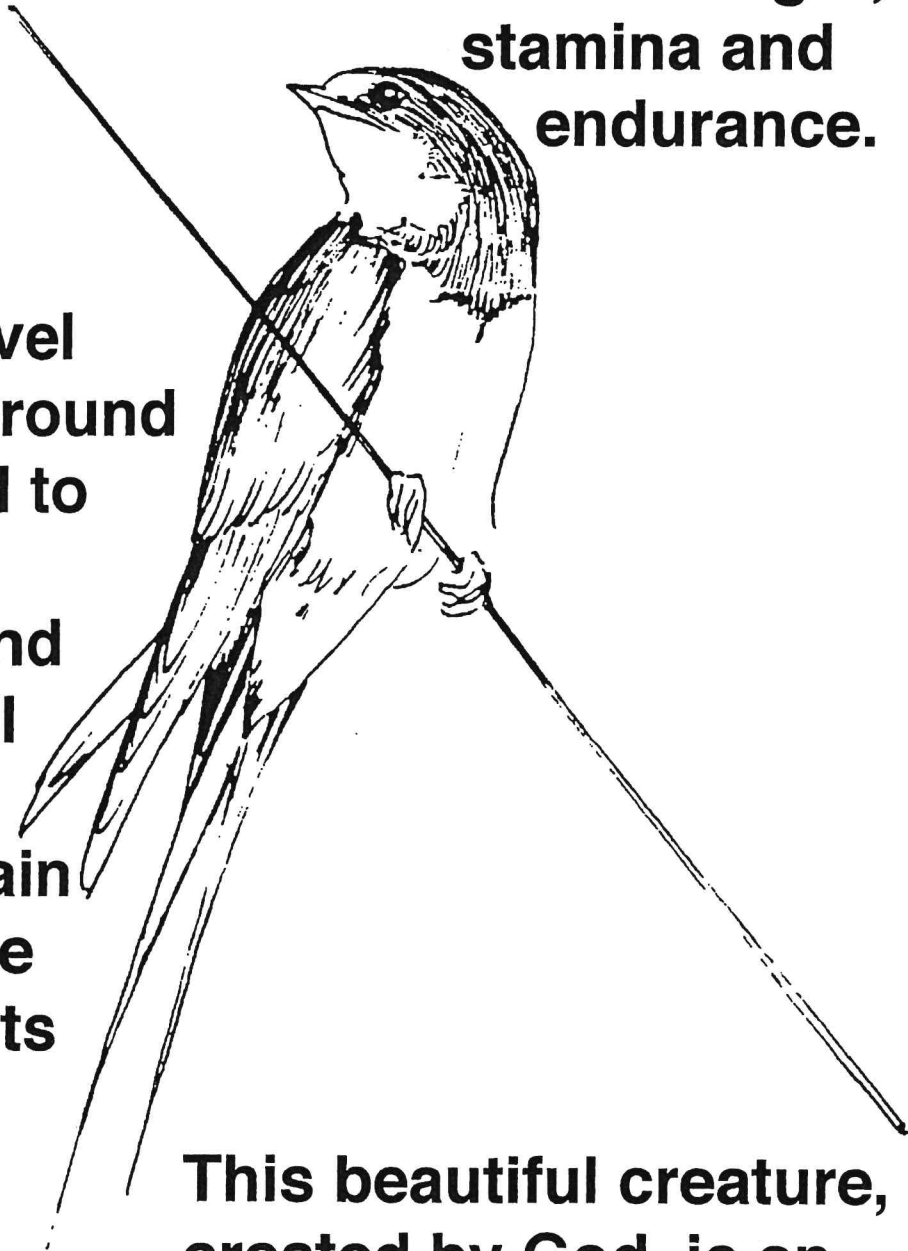
**Genesis**

Just a little bird sitting on a wire???

**No way!**

**This mighty atom  
has strength,  
stamina and  
endurance.**

**It will travel  
half way round  
the world to  
set up  
home...and  
will travel  
as many  
miles again  
to provide  
food for its  
family.**



**This beautiful creature,  
created by God, is an  
acrobat and a speed  
merchant rolled into one...**

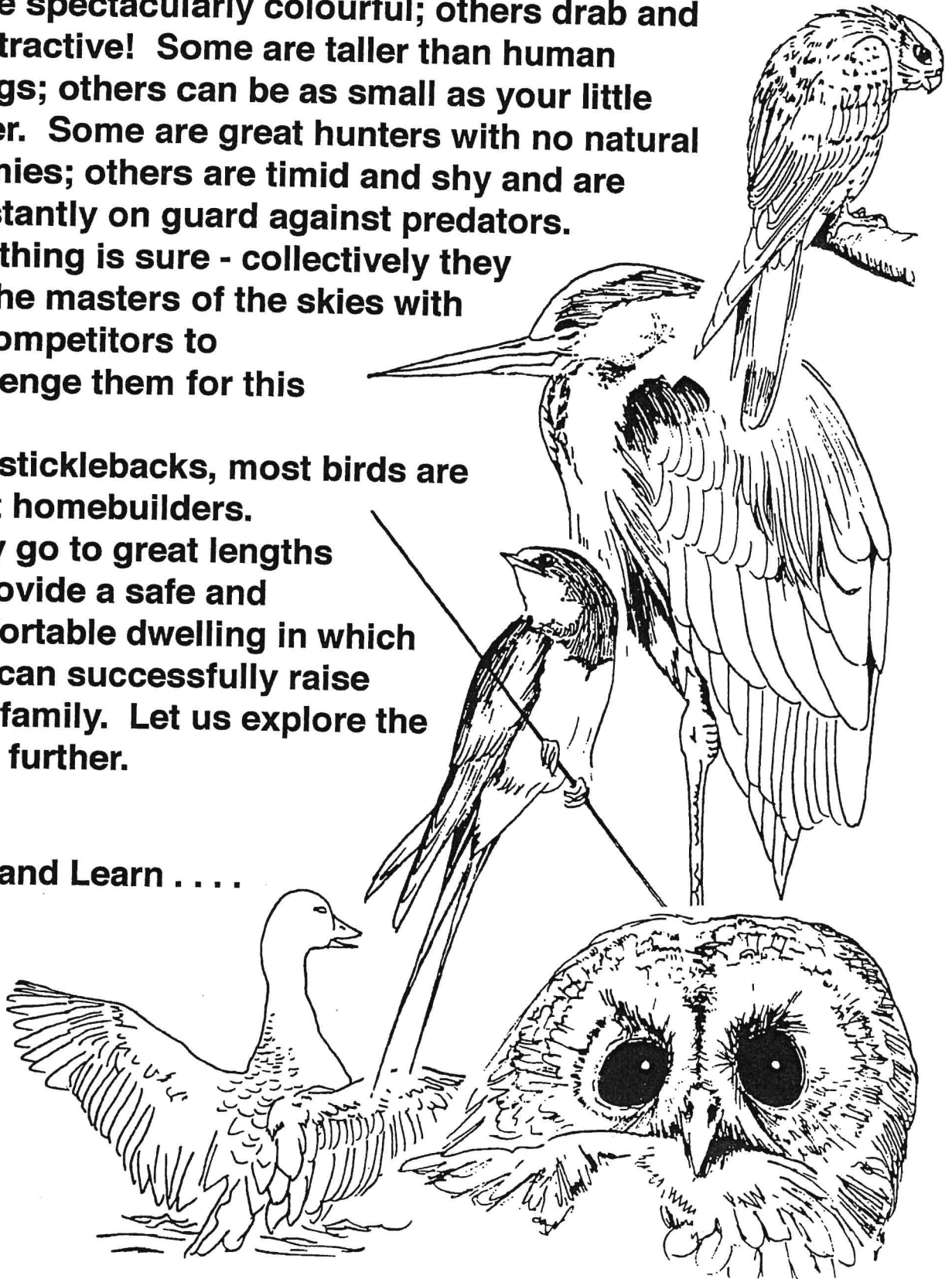
# So what makes birds so special?

Well - feathers for a start. No other form of life has such a protective covering. Then of course there is the ability of most birds to fly...some of them for great distances.

The bird family has thousands of different members - some spectacularly colourful; others drab and unattractive! Some are taller than human beings; others can be as small as your little finger. Some are great hunters with no natural enemies; others are timid and shy and are constantly on guard against predators. One thing is sure - collectively they are the masters of the skies with no competitors to challenge them for this title.

Like sticklebacks, most birds are great homebuilders. Many go to great lengths to provide a safe and comfortable dwelling in which they can successfully raise their family. Let us explore the story further.

Turn and Learn . . . .





Meet one of the most versatile of fliers - the Swallow.  
It is lightning quick and able to change direction in a fraction of a second.

This elegant bird is built for speed ....  
beautifully streamlined with long wing feathers, and forked tail feathers .... developed to assist the ups and downs, the ins and outs of its flight pattern.

It's a real athlete !!!

Colour the diagram on page 4 with guidance from your teacher.

Something to think about ...

can you think of a link between the "self-protective" arrangement of feathers on a bird's body and the way humans have learned to construct the roof of a house so as to keep out the rain ?

Here's a clue ...



---

---

---

**Unlike the stickleback story which starts with a single male building his nest, adult swallows begin their story of having a family by finding a partner....**

**male must find female**

**female must find male.**

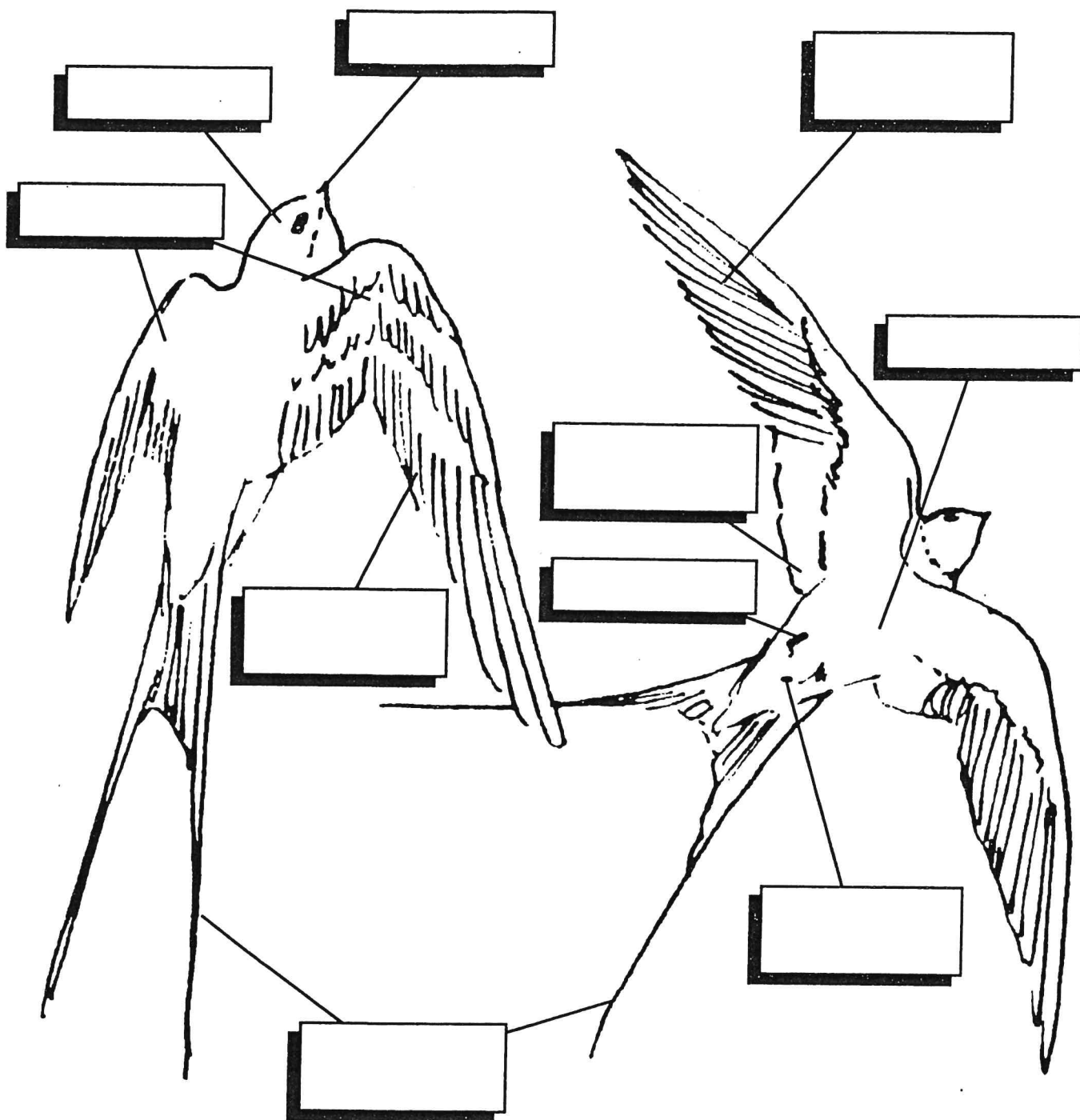
**To the human eye the male bird (cock) looks just like the female (hen) . . . . .**

**It's a good job they can tell each other apart!**

**Like most species of bird, swallows go through an elaborate form of courtship to attract a partner of the opposite sex - it's a bit like showing-off...**

**“Hey look at me, don't you think I'm handsome?”**

1. Colour the diagram with the help of the teacher
2. Label the diagram



**Once attracted to each other, the couple set about the task of preparing to have a family. Firstly they must provide a home that will be big enough to take as many as six young, and it must be safe from danger. . . . .**

**"How about a nice quiet place in the country my dear?"**

**"Oh yes, that would be lovely. I'm not too keen on the town."**

**The cock and hen share the work of nest-building .... collecting strands of straw and pellets of mud and binding them together as only birds can. Working by day and by night the swallows make journey after journey until after a week or two the nest is complete - firm on the outside and soft on the inside. Now it is ready to take a family.**

**Colour and label the diagram**

**From the moment the eggs are fertilized they begin to change. The hard protective shell starts to form around the embryo. It hardens very quickly and within 2 or 3 days the mother is able to lay the eggs, as many as 6 in number, each egg whitish in colour with red/brown speckles on it.**

**The eggs have to be kept warm for the next 2 weeks, so the mother and father take it in turns to sit on the eggs, sharing the job of INCUBATION..... While the female sits providing heat for the eggs the male will go in search of food for both of them. They eat flying insects which they catch as they fly. When it's the male's turn to keep the eggs warm, the female will hunt for food. The parents provide for each other.**

1 Colour the picture

2 Name 3 Items of food that the birds eat

1 . . . . .

2 . . . . .

3 . . . . .

Question : What is an embryo ?

Answer : .....  
.....

**The mother  
Swallow lays her eggs.**



**The EGG ...** the perfect survival pack for the helpless embryo! The egg provides the growing bird with everything it needs up to the point of hatching -

**protection** - *the hard shell makes sure no harm comes to the bird...and central heating provided by mum & dad!!*

**food** - *the yolk of the egg contains protein and fat while the white contains protein and water ... both acting as a larder for the growing embryo.*

**comfort** - *a sac of water surrounds the growing bird inside the egg so that as it moves around) it doesn't hurt itself.*

**oxygen** - *penetrates (seeps through) the egg shell into the air space.*

**Colour the egg diagram like this :**

*shell ~ whitish with red speckles  
sac of water ~ pale blue  
embryo (bird) ~ pink*

*yolk ~ yellow  
air space ~ white  
blood vessels ~ red*

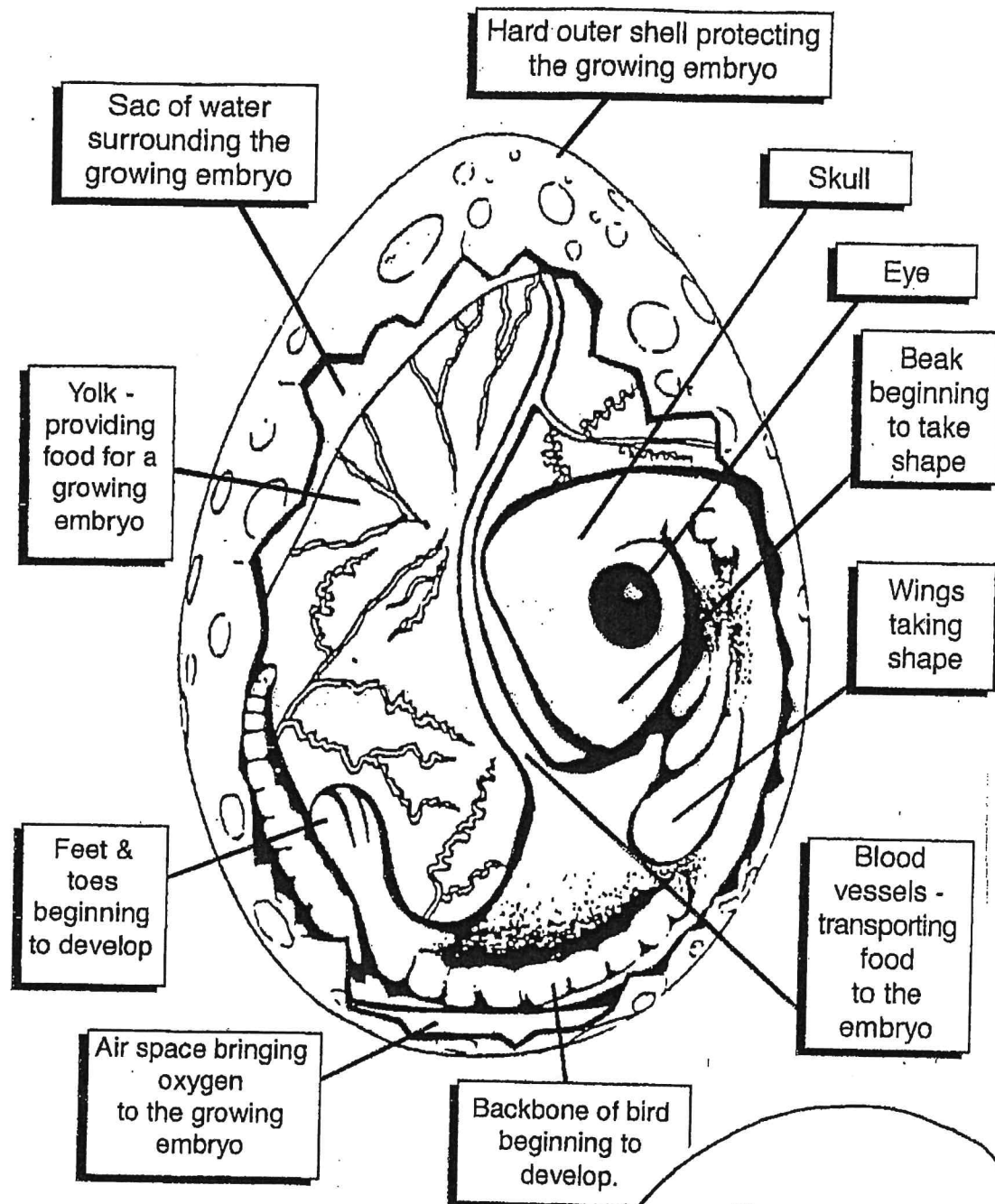
**HATCHING :** after about 14 days (two weeks) the chicks are big enough and strong enough to break their way out of the egg's protective shell. They are very small, helpless, blind for a day or two, and still in need of warmth as they have no feathers. The parents now have the job of not only feeding each other, but also feeding another 4 or 5 or 6 mouths, whilst keeping the chicks warm at the same time.

**Phew ..... being a parent is quite a responsibility !**

**Answer these questions :**

1. How long is it since the eggs were laid ? .....
2. How long is it since the parent birds mated ? .....
3. From where does the growing embryo get its food ?.....  
.....
4. What colour are the baby swallow's feathers when first hatched ? .....  
.....

# THE EGG - NATURE'S SURVIVAL PACK



## REMEMBER :

The chick hatches out into its new world ... but its life actually began the moment the egg was fertilised inside the female bird's body.





**Working in shifts the mother and father will now work even harder ... the chicks are always hungry and will take food caught by the parents - insects.**

**As the chicks grow they are less in need of warmth provided by a parent's body heat, but they are more demanding of food .... they want to eat, and eat, and eat !!!**

**They will be looked after in the nest for about 3 weeks ... and all the while the chicks grow :**

- ~ grow in size**
- ~ grow feathers**
- ~ grow in strength ....**

**it is nearly time to leave the nest !**

*Food for thought !!!*

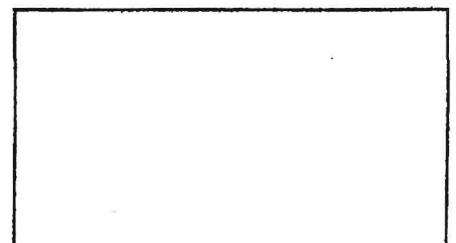
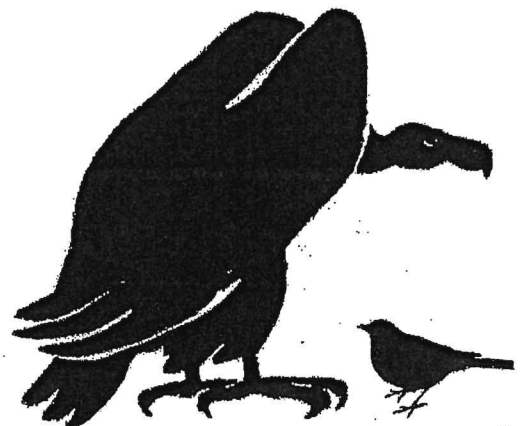
*Yes, we know that "mating" .. making a family .. is a natural thing for all birds to do (if they didn't mate the species would quickly die out / become extinct).*

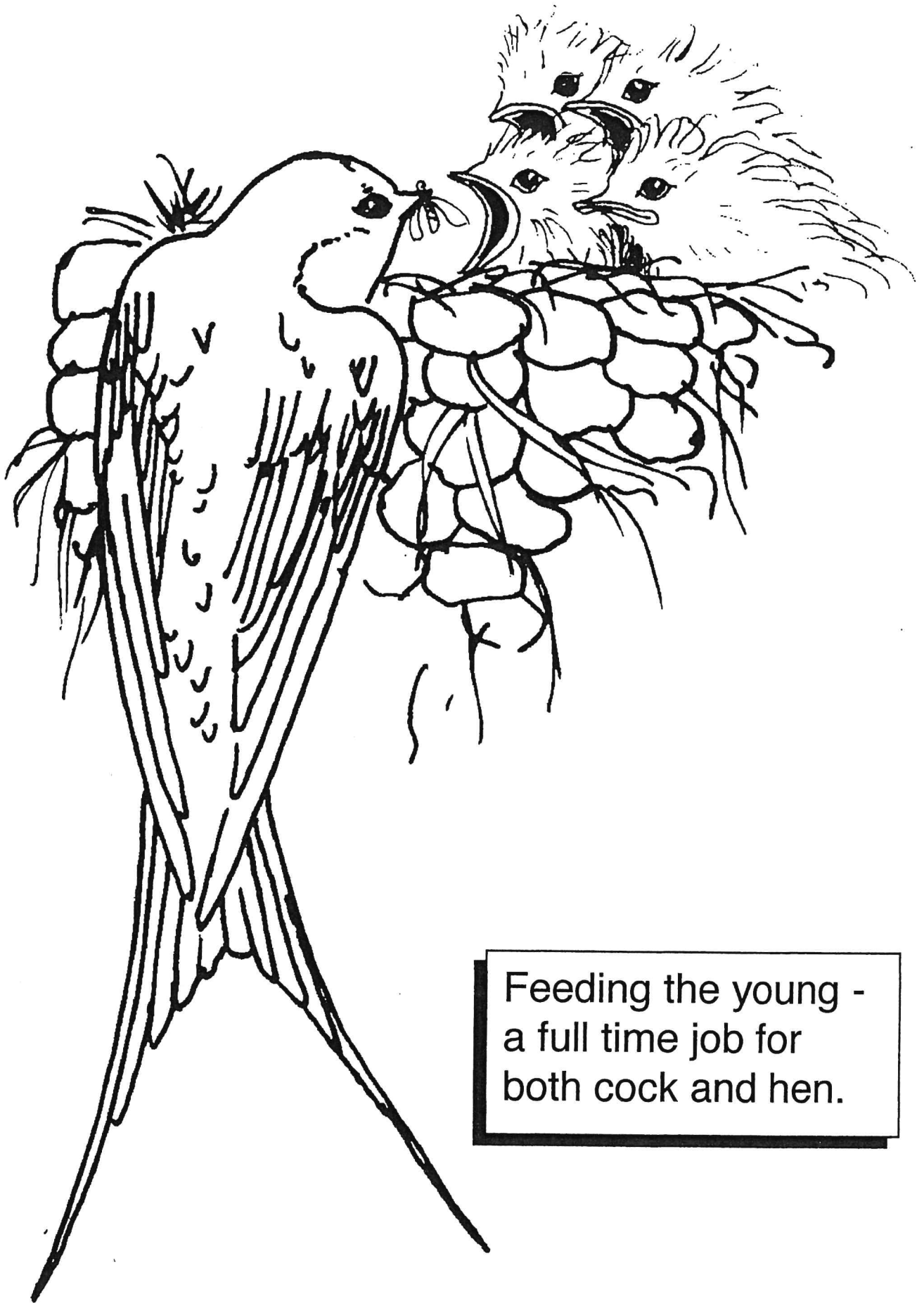
*And we know that birds usually find a partner of the same species to mate with .... so that a male robin, for example, will find a female robin to mate with ... and their offspring will be .. robins .. all looking like miniature versions of their parents ... because the sperm contains characteristics of the male parent, and the egg contains characteristics of the mother.*

*But what if two "similar" (but not the same) birds mated ?.... what would the offspring look like ?? ..... Er, no. I said "similar" !!!*

**In the box draw what you think the offspring bird would look like if one parent was a robin and the other parent was a blackbird.**

*Compare your "design" with others in your class.*





Feeding the young -  
a full time job for  
both cock and hen.

Being a parent is quite a responsibility.

Oh, what freedom. So much to see. So much to explore. But even though young birds spend the next few days having the time of their lives, they still need mum and dad ... because catching food is a bit of a skill and it takes time to perfect.

Parents will sometimes feed their young in flight and sometimes when perching. The young return to the safety of the nest for the first few nights, to sleep, but they will quickly find the confidence to look after themselves within the swallow community.

At the end of our summer they will fly with other swallows to warmer countries. Next spring they will return ... and for the adult birds the cycle will begin again with the same partner.

**ADULT SWALLOWS FORM A LIFELONG PARTNERSHIP WITH EACH OTHER ..... FRIENDS FOR LIFE.**

1. Why do swallows fly to other countries ? \_\_\_\_\_
2. To which parts of the world do they fly ? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What makes a lasting friendship ? \_\_\_\_\_

**Maths Challenge (Calculator time kids !)** : Hens can lay unfertilized eggs with hard shells .... these are the ones we find in our shops ... and many, many people find them good to eat. A healthy hen will lay about 2 eggs every 3 days. How many would you expect it to lay in a year (work to a leap year for the purpose of keeping calculations easy) ?

Ans. \_\_\_\_\_

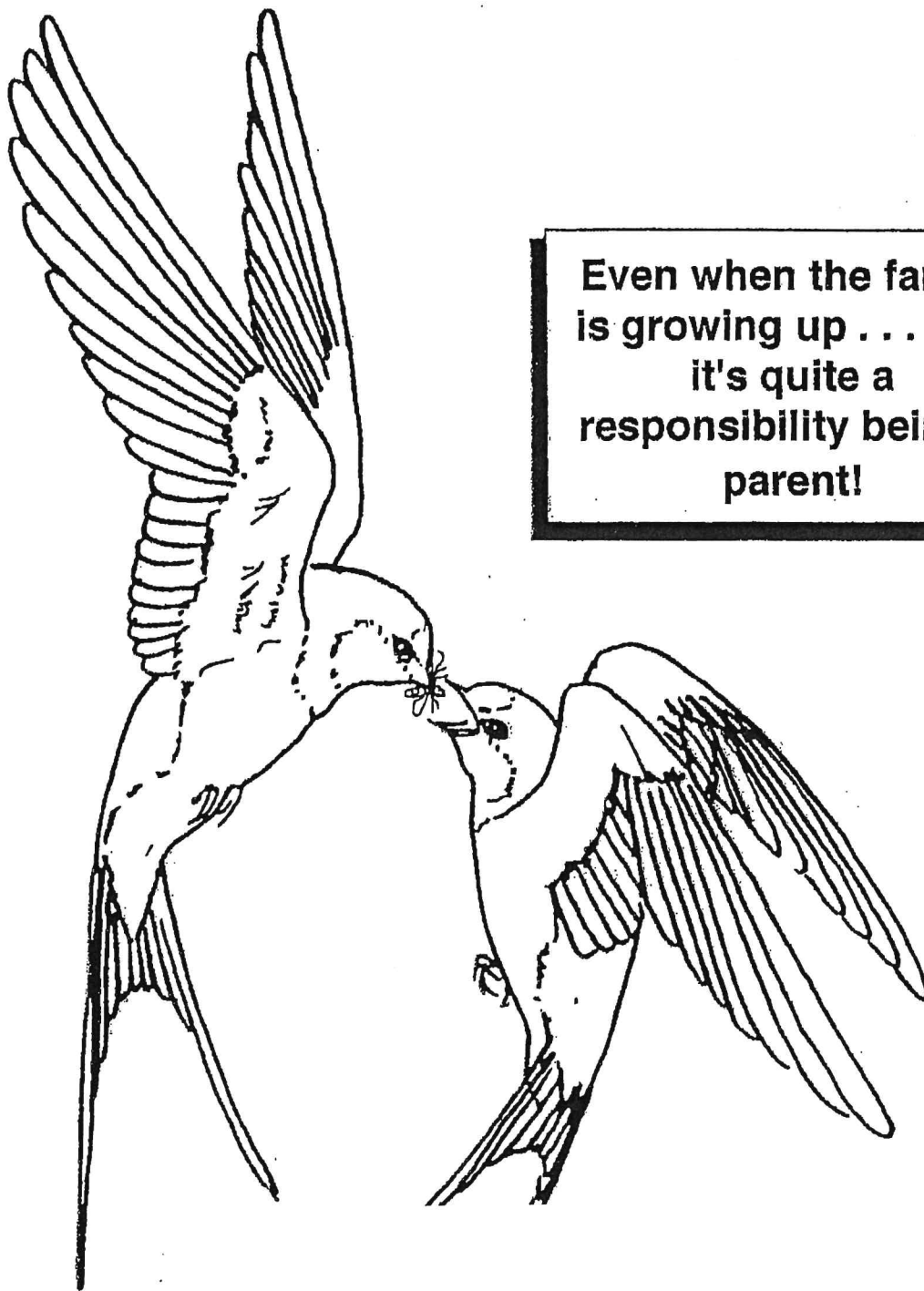
If a farmer has 2,000 healthy hens ~ how many eggs in total should his hens produce over a year (again work to a leap year) ?

Ans. \_\_\_\_\_

**What can we learn from this about helping people around the world who are desperately short of food ?**

Have others in your class come up with good ideas ?

**Even when the family  
is growing up . . . . .  
it's quite a  
responsibility being a  
parent!**



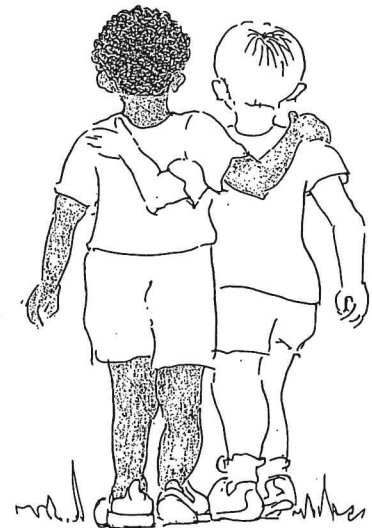
# Friends For Life

What makes a lasting friendship ?

Colour **YELLOW** ten things which help a friendship.

Colour **RED** ten things which don't help a friendship.

Colour **BLUE** ten things which don't matter when forming friendships.



**Don't press on when colouring ...**

loyalty

trust

height

honesty

forgivingness

sense of humour

weight

kindness

possessiveness

loutish behaviour

skin colour

acting "tough"

modern hairstyle

moody & fickle

designer clothes

willingness to share

bad manners

birthplace

showing off

like same hobbies / pastimes

bad language

good looks

where they live

telling lies

what their parents look like

causes embarrassment

religious beliefs

tolerance

respect

bossy

**Have others in your class  
made the same choices ?**

Much to discuss at home and in school.

## RECOGNISING **TRUE** FRIENDSHIP

Discuss these statements :

Birds of a feather  
flock together.

Friends  
for life.

A friend in need  
is a friend indeed.

True friendship  
cannot be bought.

We used to be friends  
but we're not anymore.

You cannot  
force someone  
to be your friend,

Two's company,  
three's a crowd.



God PROVIDED you with a BRAIN,  
and with it, the freedom to make your  
own choices.

So, how well do you choose ?

- \* Would a good friend enjoy seeing you hurt / upset ? \_\_\_\_\_
- \* Would a good friend break the friendship regularly ? \_\_\_\_\_
- \* Would a good friend boss you around all the time ? \_\_\_\_\_
- \* Would a good friend walk away when you need help ? \_\_\_\_\_
- \* Would a good friend let you take the blame for something  
that wasn't your fault ? \_\_\_\_\_
- \* Would a good friend embarrass you in front of others ? \_\_\_\_\_

**God wants us all to live together in the spirit of true friendship.**



# Street Cred ... What do PARENTS know about it ?

Just look at the state of you

Where are you going ?

What are you doing ?

Who's going with you ?

Don't be doing anything ....

Make sure you ....

Don't be late back ...

Give me a ring ...

Mind your  
language ...

Don't cause trouble ...

Bla, bla, bla ...



Why on earth did God **provide** me with  
parents who just don't understand me ?  
Worry, worry, worry, worry, worry.  
My friends will think I'm a WIMP !

# CHANGING CHARACTER

*... mums & dads just wouldn't recognise them.*



When little angels ..... become little monsters.

**Question : do you know people who "change character" ... especially when they are out of sight of parents & other adults ?**

• In class at school ☐

• On the playground ☐

• At parties / sleep-overs ☐

• On the street at home ☐

• **How does the change affect relationships with others ?** \_\_\_\_\_

• **Do you like the character they change into ? (Yes or No)** \_\_\_\_\_

## AND WHAT ABOUT YOU ?

**DO YOU CHANGE CHARACTER ...  
AND WOULD YOUR PARENTS  
RECOGNISE  
YOU ?**



Remember ..  
it matters to your  
parents what others  
may think about you !



Ask a parent / guardian what they **always** expect of you ...

• at school \_\_\_\_\_

• at a friend's house \_\_\_\_\_

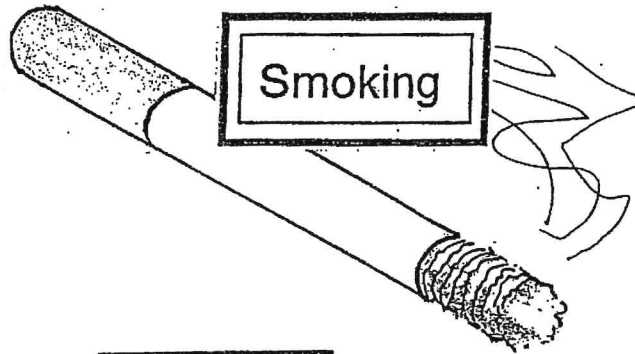
• in adult company \_\_\_\_\_



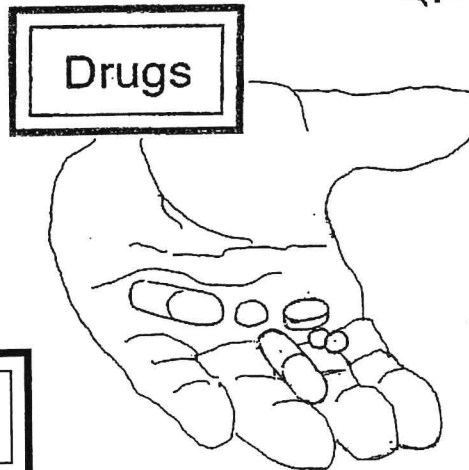
# "DON'T BE A SCAREDY CAT"



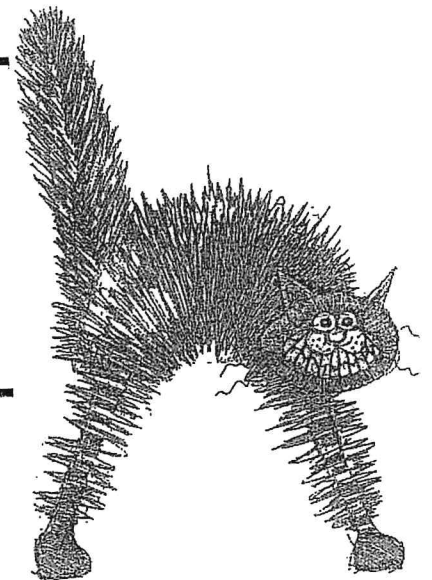
Alcohol



Smoking



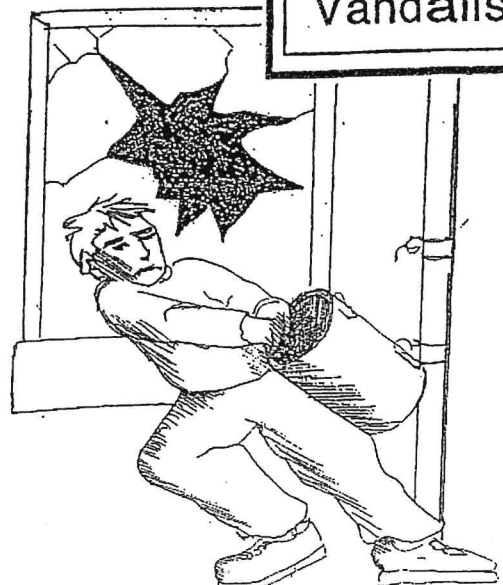
Drugs



Stealing

BUS STOP

Vandalism



Would a GOOD friend encourage you to do any of these things ?

☐

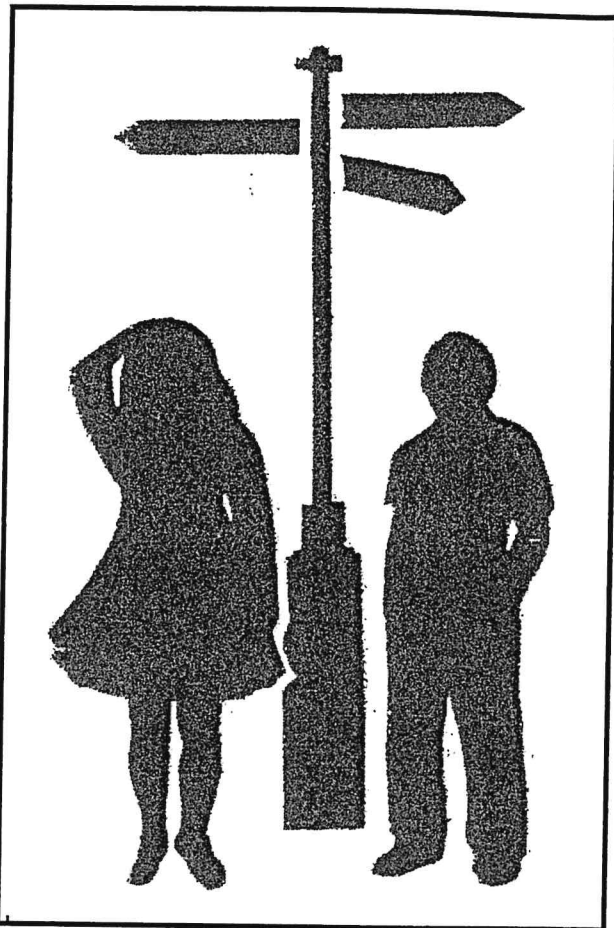
Would your parents expect you to do any of them ?

☐

# MAKING THE RIGHT DECISIONS

As you grow older you will have more and more opportunities to make your own decisions ...

but (and it's a **BIG BUT**) .. this comes with the expectation of knowing "right" from "wrong" and being able to make the right choices when it really matters.



"He told me to do it."  
 "She said we wouldn't get into trouble."  
 "He said we wouldn't get caught."  
 "We were just doing it for a joke."  
 "He told me nobody would really get hurt."  
 "I joined in because everybody else was doing it."  
 "It wasn't me; I was only watching."

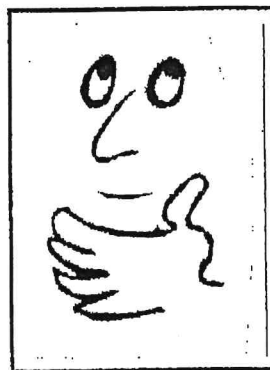
All these "petty excuses" simply won't be accepted if you get yourself involved in doing something you know to be very wrong. It's called **BEING RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR ACTIONS** and getting the choices wrong could result in ...



# LEADING BY EXAMPLE

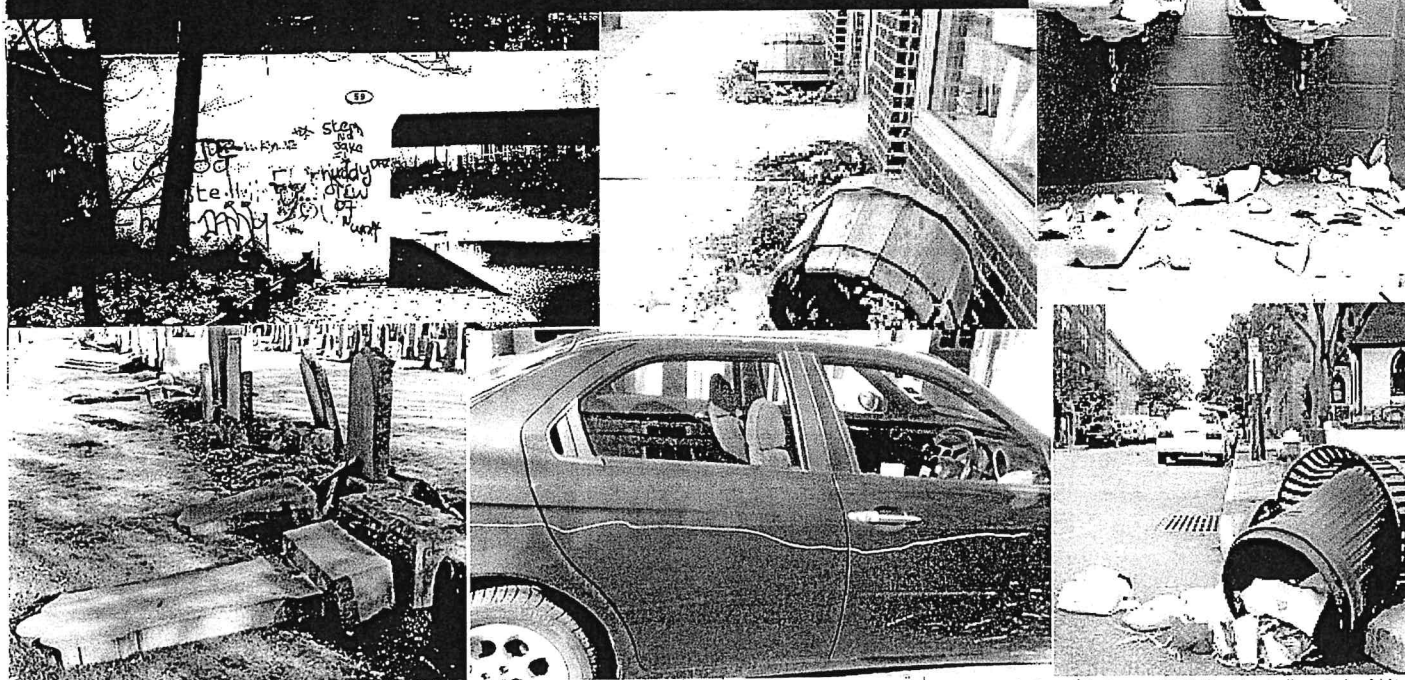
Who me ... a "Role Model" to others ?

- As a family member : by \_\_\_\_\_
- As an older or younger brother / sister : by \_\_\_\_\_
- As a grandchild : by \_\_\_\_\_
- As a scholar in class : by \_\_\_\_\_
- As an older pupil in school : by \_\_\_\_\_
- As a member of my parish community : by \_\_\_\_\_



Me... a Role Model in the Community?

(Do my actions make my family proud of me?)



Ugly graffiti, wilful damage and shameless vandalism to private property, beauty spots and public amenities ... **who does it and why does it happen ?** Gather suggestions from various members of your family and compare your results with the rest of your class. Did anyone blame SENIOR CITIZENS ?

Checked  
By



# CONNECT<sub>ING</sub>

## WITH YOUR COMMUNITY.

There are better things to do with your life  
than hang around on street corners.

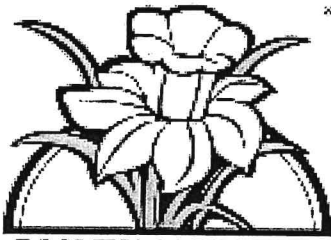


bored ?

improvement projects



CHANGING PLACES  
CHANGING LIVES



CULTIVATING OUR  
COMMUNITY

not lost  
it yet !



clean-up



no one visits



no one offers

never too old to  
learn new skills

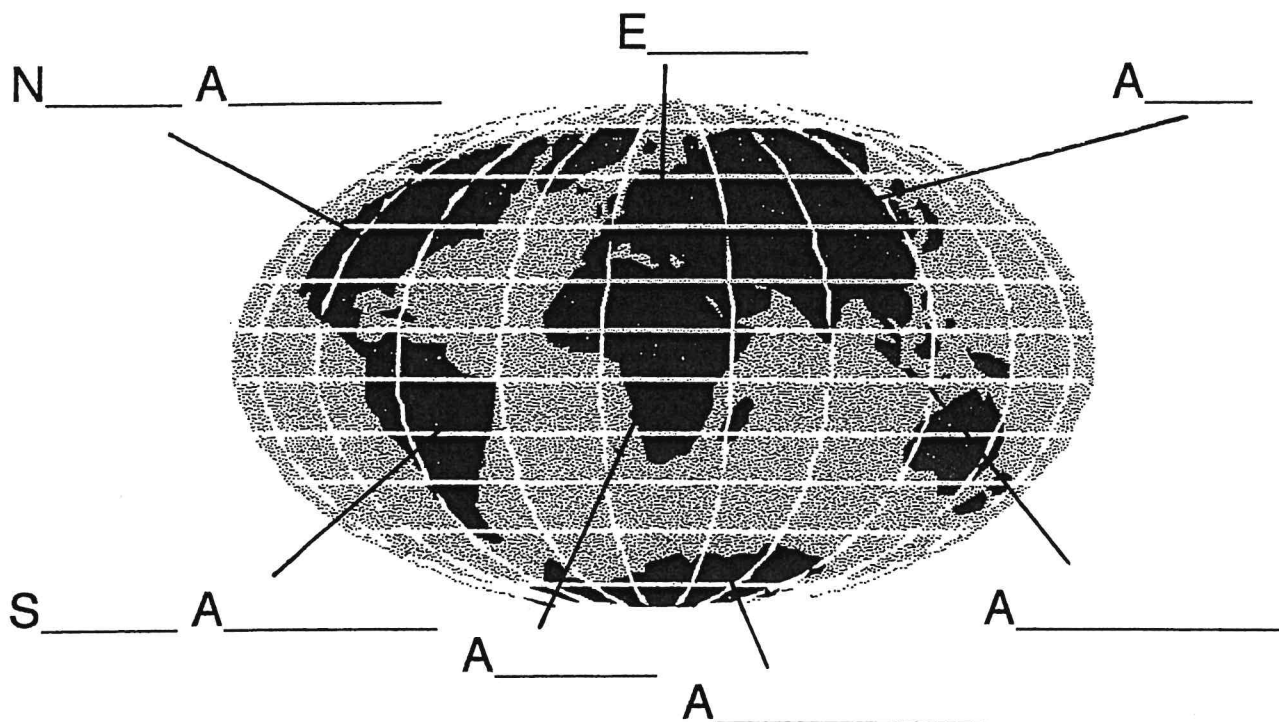


fitness, fun, fellowship

Pride in who you are and where you live ..... plus a willingness to use the  
gifts & talents which you possess ..... can improve the environment, bring  
people together, and change lives .. making our world a better place to live.

# ***What A Wonderful World***

God Provided For His Earthly Family

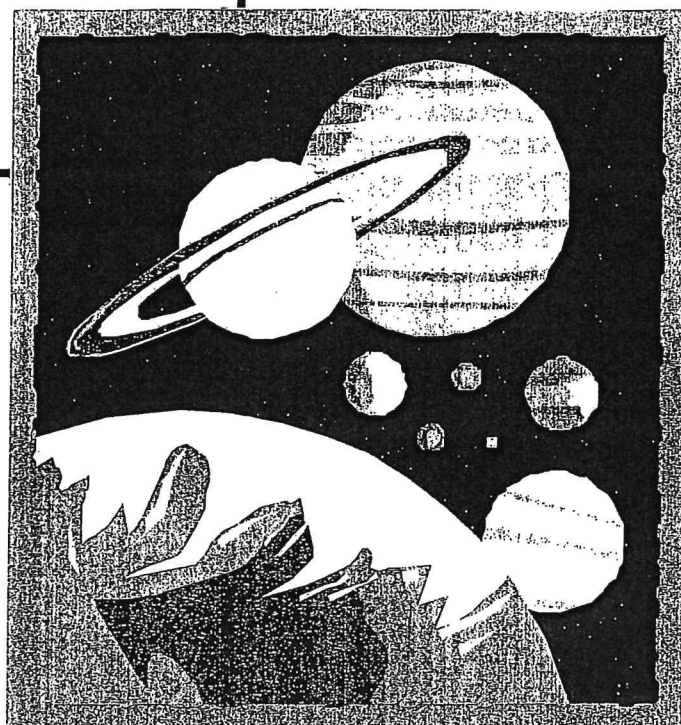


## ***What A Wonderful Solar System***

God The Master Designer.

From the sun ....

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_



# ***What A Wonderful Family***

Made in the image of God.



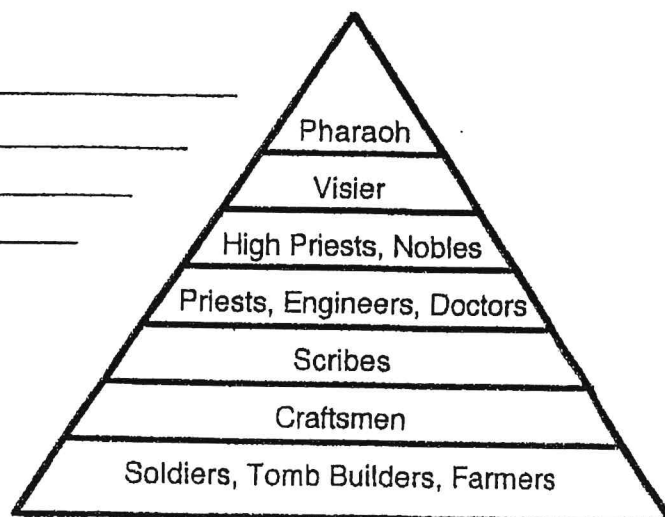
Millions and millions ..... but no two the same.  
Every human being unique, individual, special.

# ***What A Wonderful Vision!***

Living together in peace. Providing for each other.

Society means : \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The Ancient Egyptians  
showed what could  
be achieved by  
working together.



Why were farmers so important ? (Read Genesis : Chapter 41)

# Teamwork



Some other providers

[illegible]

**A modern society is built on “teamwork”...**  
 but sometimes ... through no fault of their own ...  
 good workers can lose their jobs and become **R \_ \_ U \_ D \_ \_ T**  
 (it seems to happen a lot these days) ;  
 or ... try as they might to find work ... be **U \_ \_ M \_ L \_ \_ D.**

**Society has great respect for unemployed people who still try to find LEGAL WAYS to MAKE A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION. Discuss.**



# GOD AND HIS HUMAN FAMILY

## A Very Special Relationship with A Very Special "Provider"

Throughout history God has communicated with His people ...  
often using specially chosen individuals as His "mouthpiece" ....  
to lead them, to guide them, to show them the right path.  
Here is just one example ... on this occasion Moses was His spokes-person :

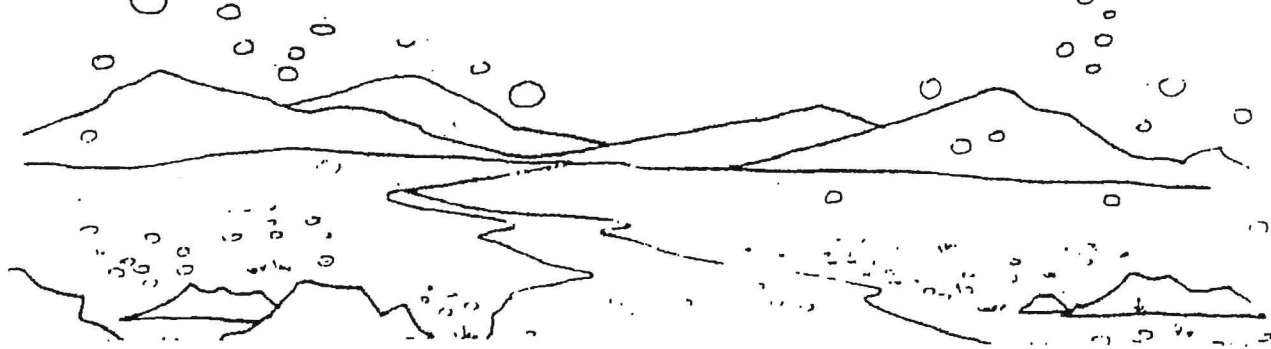
### Manna from Heaven

Exodus Chapter 16

After being freed from slavery in Egypt the Israelites were wandering in the wilderness and could find nothing to eat. They grumbled at Moses, their leader, saying that it would have been better to have stayed in Egypt as slaves than to die of starvation in the wilderness. But God spoke to Moses and told him that He would send bread from Heaven for the people to eat.

In the morning, when the dew had disappeared small, round things covered the ground. The people collected them to eat and everyone had enough. The Israelites called the food "Manna". It was white and tasted like wafers made with honey.

Manna appeared every day except the Sabbath, so the day before the Sabbath they gathered twice as much! They ate Manna for forty years, until they reached the borders of the land of Canaan ~ the promised land. God provided for his people.



**Can you put these "mouthpieces" in CHRONOLOGICAL order ?..**

John (Baptist), Isaiah (the prophet), Isaac, King Solomon, Abraham, King David, Joseph, Jacob, Moses

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

Now can you work out the next "guide" sent by God ? \_\_\_\_\_



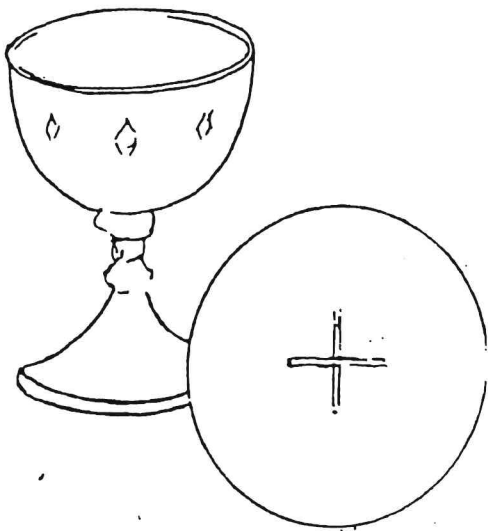
His Son - an example  
of the way to live



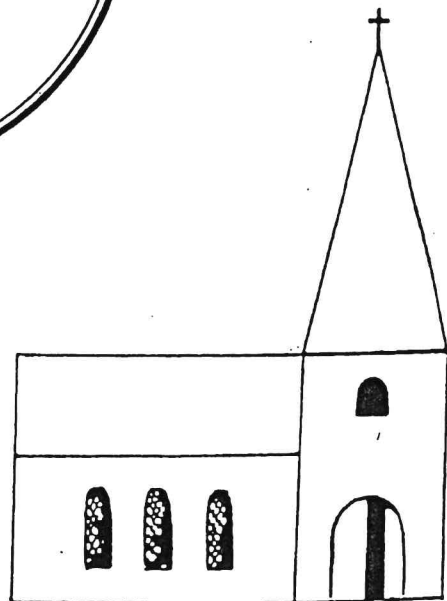
The promise of a better  
life - with the Father



God  
provided  
us  
with

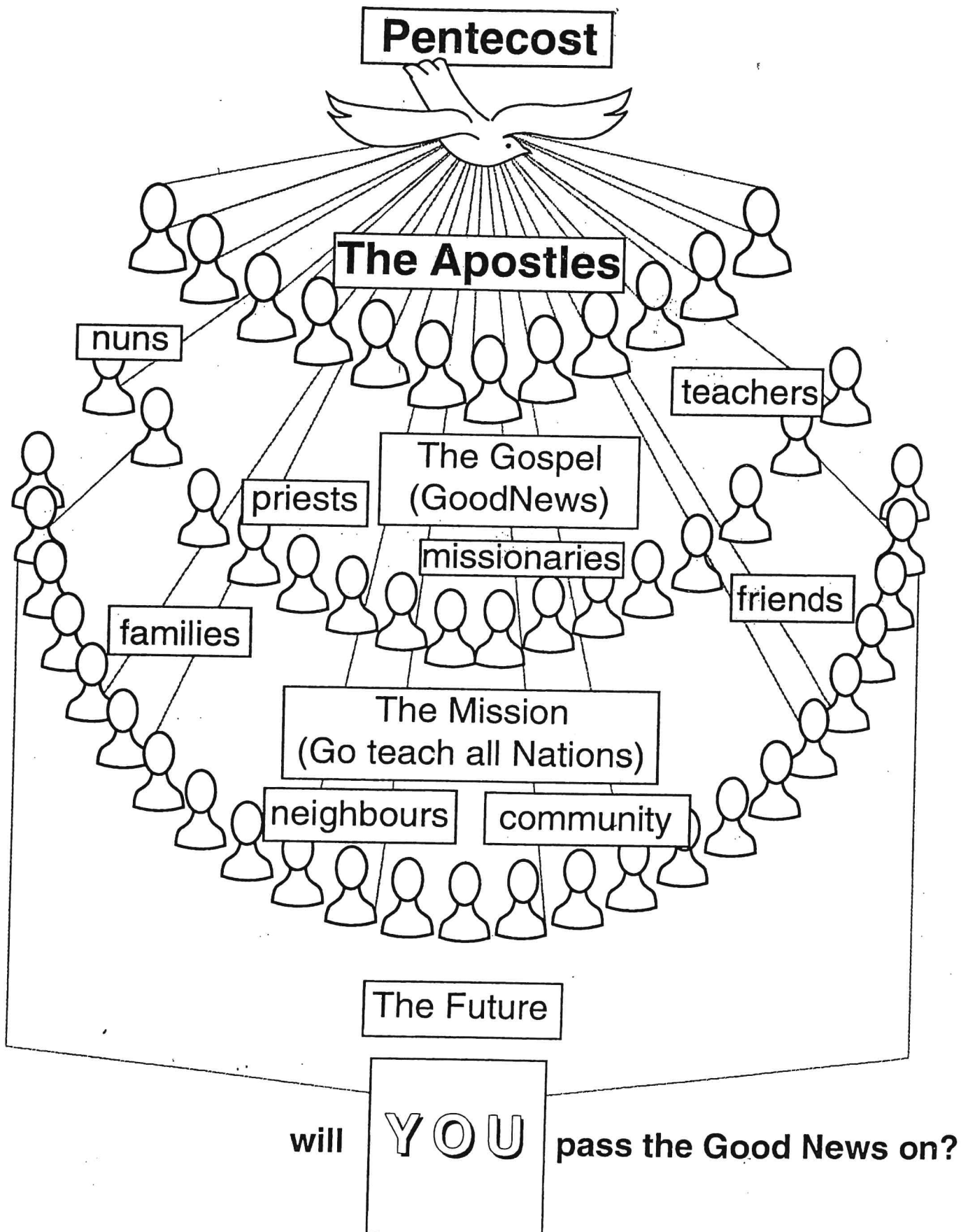


Food for life -  
Holy Communion

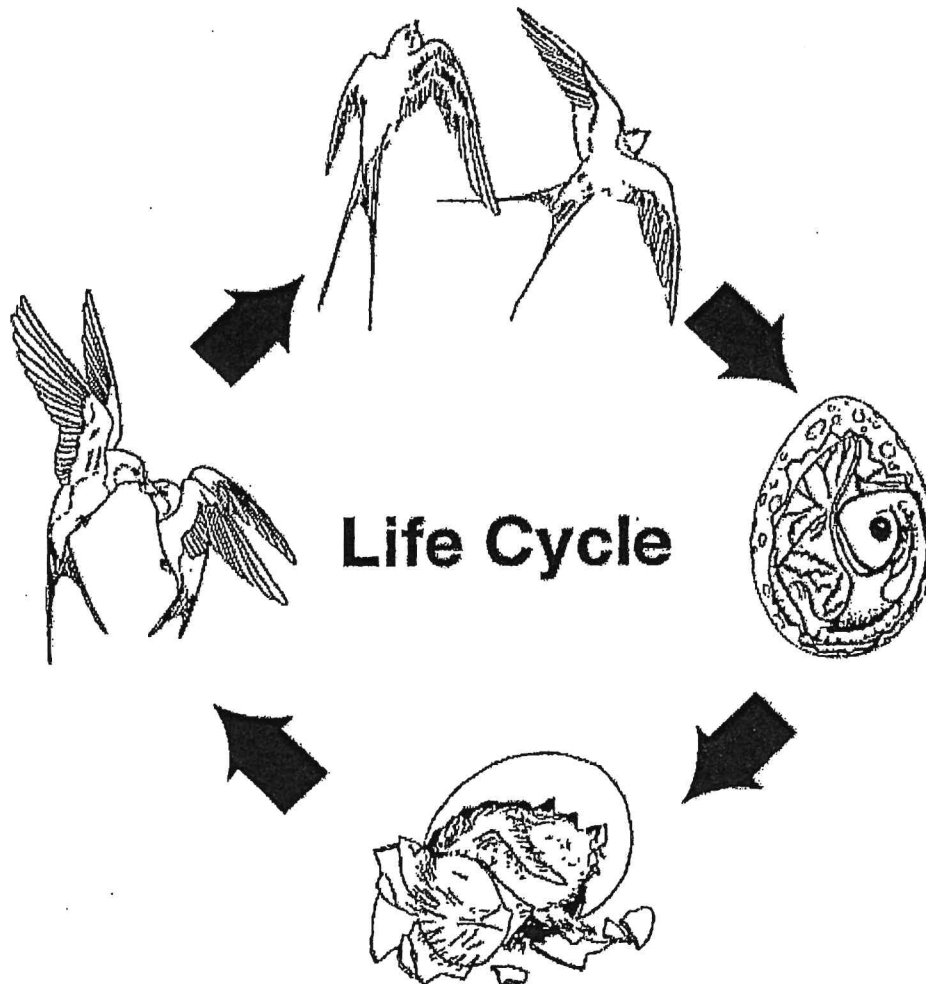


A loving caring  
community - we are all  
here to help one  
another

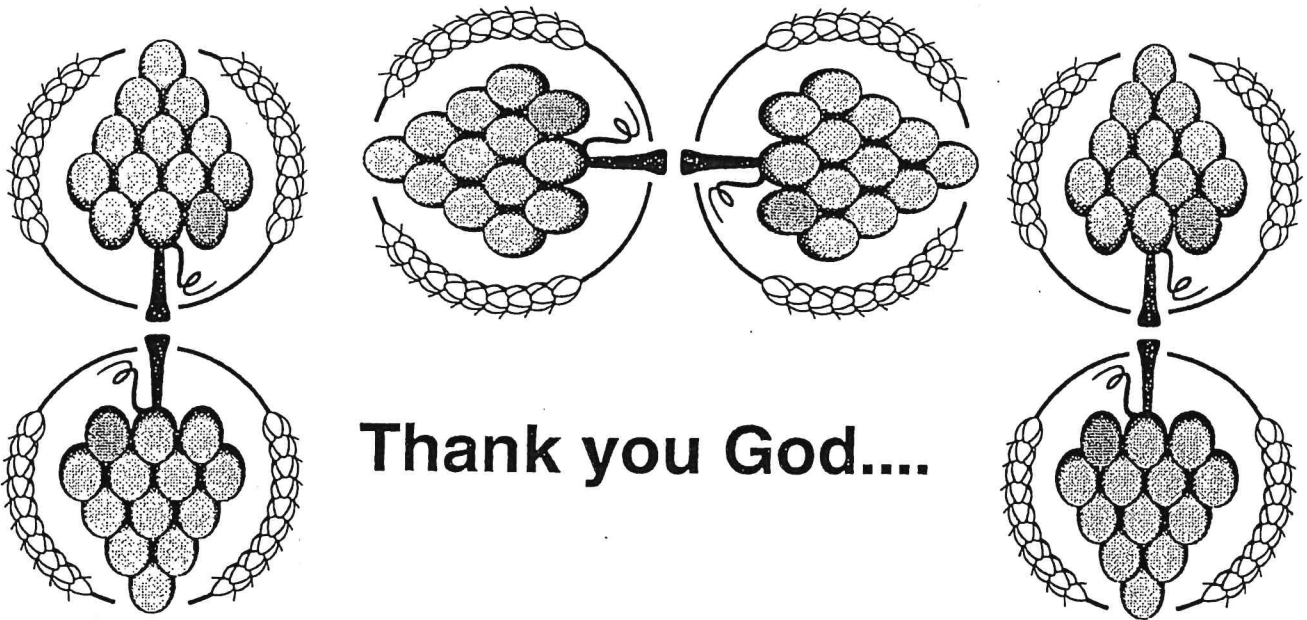
**The spirit of God moves throughout the  
world providing  
Strength - Hope - Love**



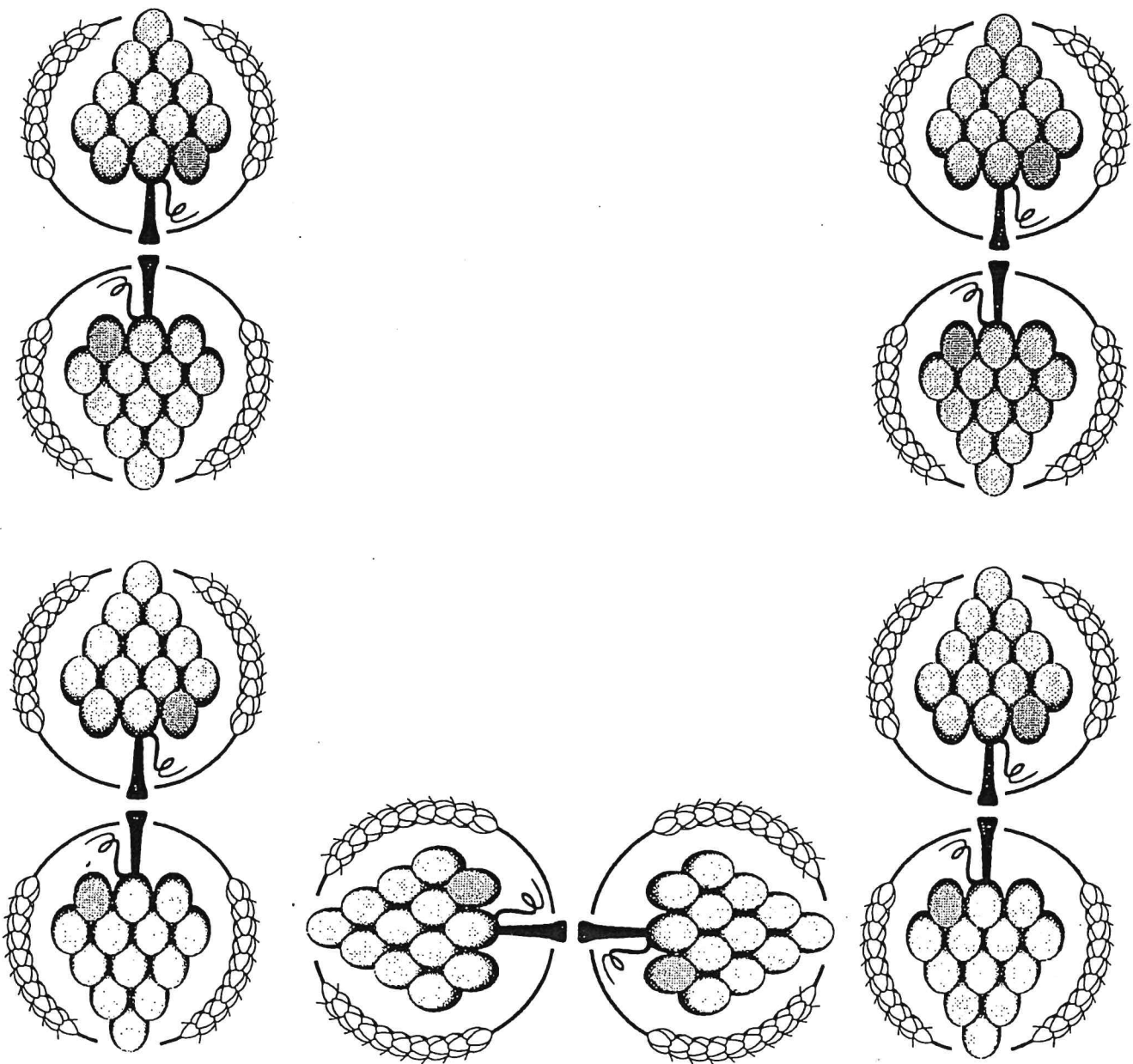
Adult swallows show "commitment" ....  
to each other (staying together as partners),  
and to their family (providing for the brood)  
a commitment which occupies both parents "24/7"  
(providing warmth & food) for the next 3-6 weeks.



A human child needs MUCH more than shelter, food  
and warmth : it needs love, and understanding, and love,  
and time, and love, and routine, and love, and play,  
and love, and exploration, and love, and education,  
and love, and comfort, and love... 24/7 ... for life.  
GOD IS LOVE ...24/7.



Thank you God....



# **Isn't God Wonderful?**

## **Discuss**